



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Laura Rizer
Community Outreach & Resource Services Manager
703-737-8045 (office) | 571-233-3033 (cell)
laura.rizer@loudoun.gov (email)

Changes Come to Dog Licenses

February 10, 2009 – Waterford, VA – The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has approved changes to County dog license procedures as proposed by Animal Care & Control and the Treasurer's Office.

In past years, dog license renewals came due each January, and licenses were sold based on the calendar year. With the new procedure, the county will issue dog licenses to run concurrently with the rabies vaccination effective period for each individual dog.

Further, the new process allows citizens the option to purchase dog licenses for one, two or three year periods provided that the rabies certificate is valid for the license period.

Permanent dog tags will be issued with the new licenses and should remain with the dog for its lifetime. Replacements may be purchased, if needed. Dog owners are encouraged to keep their receipts in a safe place as they will indicate when the license expires.

Dog license fees will remain at \$10 per year for each dog regardless of spay/neuter status.

Moving forward, dog license renewal notices will be sent to each dog owner one month prior to the expiration month of their current rabies certificate. Renewal licenses can be purchased by mail or in person at the Loudoun County Animal Shelter or the Treasurer's Offices in Leesburg and Sterling.

In order to account for the conversion to the new system, 2008 dog licenses with a current rabies vaccination certificate will continue to be valid in 2009 and will expire on the month and day that the rabies vaccination certificate expires. For example, if the rabies certificate expires on 09/12/2010 then the dog's 2008 tag will be valid until 9/12/2009.

Owners of unlicensed dogs who have a current rabies certificate will need to purchase a dog license.

All dogs over four months old must have a current rabies vaccine administered by a veterinarian, and veterinarians are required by Virginia State code section 3.2-6529 to provide the Treasurer's Office with a copy of all canine rabies vaccination certificates.

"Everyone at Animal Care & Control understands that this procedural change may seem confusing at first," noted Director Thomas Koenig. "We appreciate the patience of our citizens and assure them that once we complete this transitional year, the process will be much easier and efficient for both dog owners and county staff."

Failure to purchase a dog license is a Class IV Misdemeanor with up to a \$250 fine. More importantly the license is a means of identification to ensure that dogs are returned to their owners when lost.

More information on the new dog license process can be found online at www.loudoun.gov/doglicense or by calling 703-777-0406.